

Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition (SAAC)
Keep On Track - Juvenile Criminal Justice Team
Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2005

In Attendance: Scott Carlson, Otto Schulz, Melissa Beecher, Corey Steele, Jill Wertz, Michelle Nelson, BJ Brittenham, Sara Wolter, Bev Hoagland

Change in Otto's role with this group

Otto explained that in January he began to coordinate the Behavioral Health Coalition for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. When he and Kit sat down and looked at his current responsibilities, they discovered that he was attending or facilitating between 17 and 20 committees. Kit suggested that it would better for Otto to be involved at a different level with some of these committees such as ours and just lead the Behavior Health and Mental Health Committees.

Committee Priorities

Otto explained that the role he has with this group is to provide administrative support and help to this group. The focus of this group is on youth, the criminal justice system and substance abuse.

On a side note, Otto mentioned that there is a brochure that outlines the costs and benefits or programs such as Drug Court that can be downloaded at www.tresearch.org

Background on what this group wants to accomplish/role

In the past this group has done a good job of identifying an issues and coming to the group with it such as with bringing in Roxie to explain the Medicaid eligibility rules. Otto explained that this group developed a start to a draft strategic plan but has not identified a clear-cut mission.

Draft SAAC strategic plan

Melissa passed out the draft strategic plan and explained that finishing the strategic plan should be one of the goals that this group should accomplish. This can be used to guide the group through the goals and objectives and can be used to identify issues for funding opportunities and grants. This plan would also become part of the Juvenile Services Strategic Plan. Melissa stated that she would be glad to be the lead for putting this plan together and B.J. and Jill said that they would work with her on creating the plan. The group suggested that Pat Carlson also be involved in this process.

There was some discussion on the third problem statement in the draft plan (Parents resist appropriate care and treatment for their children). Although the group definitely felt that this is an issue, they suggested that it be worded differently. It is sometimes hard for parents to hear that there are problems with their kids and view it as a reflection of himself or herself as a parent. B.J. suggested that in some instances that communication is the key to working with the parents. Often transportation is an issue and releases cause things to get held up.

Develop 1-2 short-term and 1-2 long-term goals /Cross training with criminal justice and treatment professionals

The group decided that having a Cross training with criminal justice and treatment professionals was a priority for this group. B.J. said that she would be glad to host a training/workshop at the Independence Center. Corey stated that often criminal justice professions have questions for the treatment professionals and the treatment professionals have questions for the judges or other criminal justice professionals so this would be a great forum to address those types of questions or concerns. Corey added if we gave Judge Dawson and Judge Porter enough notice that they may be willing to come. The group felt that approximately 100 people might attend. B.J. was going to look into choosing a date and Melissa, B.J. Corey and possibly Michelle would be involved in coordinating the cross training. The group thought that this forum might identify issues that could be put into the strategic plan as a goal/objective.

New drug tech

Corey reported that the County has allocated money for a new drug tech but it is on hold until the new testing equipment arrives. Sara stated that kids have told her that they will stay away from drugs and alcohol as long as they are being tested - This appears to be a big motivator for the kids not to use.

Increasing representation/Does the time and day of week work for everyone?

The group felt that there has been less attendance recently and that maybe changing the date to the fourth Tuesday of the month would help. The next meeting was scheduled for the forth Tuesday the 26th at 10:30 a.m. at the Independence Center

Is there anyone else that may want to be involved with this committee?

The group felt that definitely someone from Cedars and Detention should attend. Melissa stated that Sheli was unable to attend today because of a conflict.

Set next meeting date and location

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 26th at 10:30 a.m. at the Independence Center.